

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 28, 2006 has been received and carefully studied.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner states that the term "said reverse osmosis cartridge" lacks antecedent basis. By the accompanying amendment, proper antecedent basis has been provided.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-5 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,990,248. The Examiner states that Brown does disclose a central tube (12 or 62) that is hollow by virtue of there being a cavity or space (40 or 87) within the tube, and that this tube 62 is the innermost tube of the reverse osmosis cartridge.

By the accompanying amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the innermost tube is the innermost tube of the cylindrical container in which the cartridge is contained. Support for the amendment can be found in Figure 3, for example.

The central tube 12 or 62 of Brown is not the innermost tube with respect to a cylindrical container; indeed the Examiner admits that it is the innermost tube with respect to the reverse osmosis cartridge.

In addition, at column 10, lines 31-38 of Brown, it is stated:

"The filter media including prefilter 72, membrane permeator 70 and post-filter 75 are mounted on or in the mounting tube 62 which is, in turn, fastened to the cartridge end cap 63. Removal of the end cap 55 permits the removal of the cartridge end cap 63 by means of its pull handle 63a, and with it the winding tube 62 and all the filter media, from within the housing pipe for replacement from time to time as required."

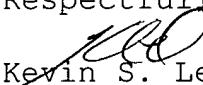
In contrast, the central tube of the present invention is not fastened to the module end cap; the instant module is monolithic and forms a disposable module as claimed.

The Examiner rejects claims 6, 7 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Regunathan et al., claims 8, 10-12 and 22 as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Regunathan and further in view of Whittier et al., claims 13-16 as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Regunathan and Whittier and further in view of Burrows, claim 9 as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Regunathan and Whittier and further in view of Petrucci et al., and claim 17 as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Regunathan and Whittier and further in view of Gundrum et al.

These claims are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence. None of the secondary references supplies the above-noted deficiencies of Brown.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing.

Respectfully submitted,


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